(b) to (d) in view of (a) above there is no proposal to reserve any industry for any particular State. Fiscal and other incentives have been provided to certain industries in the North-East.

Sick Industrial Units in North India

†4409 SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of public and private sector industrial units are sick in north India;

(b) whether Government have conducted any study taking this situation into account;

(c) whether Government are making efforts to revive the sick units in the interest of the country and society;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) Data on sick industrial units, assisted by banks in the country, is compiled by the Reserved Bank of India (RBI). According to the RBI, the number of non-SSI sick/weak industrial units in public and private sector in north India (comprising Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and the union territories of Delhi and Chandigarh) as at the end of March 1999 (provisional), was 45 and 511 respectively.

The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which, *interalia,* include guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act 1985, National Equity Fund etc.

Removal of Quantitative Restrictions on Import

4410 SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have removed quantitative restrictions (QRs) on import of as many as 714 items;

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.